

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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SPORTSMEN REMINDED THAT WILD
FELINES MAY NOT BE BROUGHT IN FROM MEXICO

Assistant Secretary of the Interior Nathaniel P. Reed today reminded United States sportsmen that there is no legal way that a trophy jaguar, puma, ocelot, jaguarundi or other wild cat can be brought into this country from Mexico. All wild felines are protected by law in Mexico.

Reed's warning was prompted by numerous seizures reported by the Fish and Wildlife Service's game management agents stationed along the Mexican border. "Obviously," said Reed, "this is a case of ignorance of the law, because many hunters are openly bringing the illegal trophies to border stations where they must be declared to Customs officials."

Charges have been filed against persons illegally possessing the skins. In addition, several persons have been prosecuted after they presented illegally taken Mexican wild cats to taxidermy shops in the United States.

According to Mexican game officials, no permits have been issued for the taking of any species of wild feline in Mexico, and none will be issued.

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